

REMARKS

Claims 2-6 and 8-12 remain pending in the application.

Claim Rejections--35 USC 103

Claims 2-4, 6 and 8-11 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Kalivas ("Motion Compensated Enhancement of Noisy Image Sequences") in view of Prakash (International Publication 00/64167). Claims 5 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Kalivas in view of Prakash and further in view of Golin. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejection.

Previously-presented claim 2 recites as follows.

2. A method for temporally filtering a video sequence, the method comprising:

using object motion estimation for arbitrarily shaped segments to align corresponding pixels between at least two frames;

determining segments that are no longer adjacent to a segment boundary based on said object motion estimation;

reducing impact of color blur from said segments that are no longer adjacent by adjusting weights assigned to one or more frames for pixels that lie within a blur region near said segment boundary; and

computing a weighted average of color values of said corresponding pixels.

(Emphasis added.)

As shown above, previously-presented claim 2 recites “**reducing impact of color blur from said segments that are no longer adjacent.**” In particular, the color blur is reduced “by adjusting weights assigned to one or more frames for pixels that lie within a blur region near said segment boundary”. (Emphasis added.)

The problem of color blur from previously-neighboring segments (objects) is discussed in the present application, for example, on page 12, lines 11-19 as follows.

The problem arises when neighboring objects move differently between frames. A given segment may move so that a portion of its boundary is no longer adjacent to the same segment as in the previous frame. That boundary portion may be adjacent to a region of a different color, so that the blur at that boundary portion may contain some color from the new region rather than some color from the previously adjacent segment. If the temporal filter averages color values of pixels within the blur region in the previous and current frames, **some color from the previously adjacent segment may be introduced to the new segment location where it does not belong.** This trailing color can create a visible artifact at the boundary of the moving segment.

(Emphasis added.)

Thus, as discussed above, the problem solved by the claimed invention relates to **color blur from said segments that are no longer adjacent** to a segment. In particular, the color blur is reduced by adjusting weights assigned to one or more frames for pixels that lie within a blur region near said segment boundary.

In the latest office action, it is asserted that Prakash’s discovery of **newly-exposed regions** (column 9: lines 16-18) reads upon the claim language of

“**segments that are no longer adjacent.**” (Emphasis added.) Applicants respectfully *traverse* this assertion.

Consider, for example, the exposed areas 1602 and 1603 seen below from FIG. 16 of Prakash.

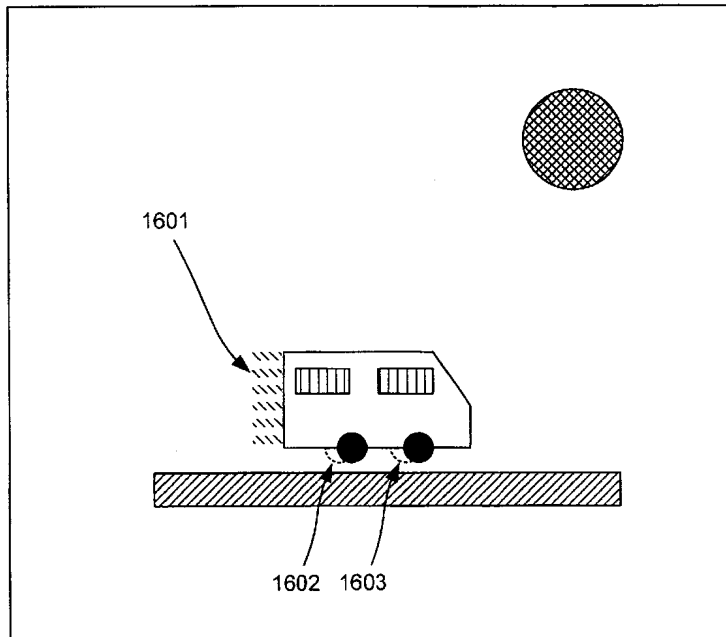


FIG. 16

As seen above, the exposed areas 1602 and 1603 are newly revealed areas **immediately neighboring** the tires that are now visible due to the motion of the vehicle. Hence, these exposed areas 1602 and 1603 are clearly **adjacent to** the vehicle segment (or tire segments).

Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that this rejection of claim 2 is now overcome. If this rejection is maintained by the Examiner, then applicants respectfully request a clear explanation as to how newly exposed areas are being interpreted as the claimed “segments that are no longer adjacent.”

Claims 3-5 depend from claim 2. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 3-5 are patentable for at least the reasons discussed above in relation to claim 2.

Claim 6 recites similar limitations as amended claim 2. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that claim 6 is patentable for at least the reasons discussed above in relation to claim 2.

Claim 8 also recites similar limitations as amended claim 2. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that claim 8 is patentable for at least the reasons discussed above in relation to claim 2.

Claims 9-12 depend from amended claim 8. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 9-12 are patentable for at least the reasons discussed above in relation to claim 8.

Conclusion

For the above discussed reasons, applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of the latest office action are overcome.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned for any questions.
Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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